



Committed to the future of rural communities.

NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture - Rural Development
World Wide Web: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov>

VERMONT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31, 2006

Contact: Carolyn Lawrence
(802) 828-6002

MARLBORO COLLEGE RECEIVES \$3 MILLION FOR NEW HEALTH CENTER FROM USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Marlboro, VT: USDA Rural Development Administrator Russell Davis presented Ellen Lovell, President of Marlboro College, with a \$3 million ceremonial check to construct a new health center for students on the Marlboro College campus.

The small college is relatively isolated in its rural setting atop Potash Hill in Marlboro, VT and is at least a twenty minute drive to the nearest medical facility. The current health center which serves approximately 380 students and staff is inadequate, not fully accessible and does not have space for health education, recreation, exercise therapy or overnight stays. The current health facility will be renovated to provide accommodations for eleven more students who prefer to live on campus.

Demand for health care services at universities across the nation is on the rise and Marlboro is no exception. Requests for health care services on campus has tripled in the last ten years. The comprehensive health education facility combined with fitness and recreational space will not only be able to respond to these demands, but will also offer proactive health and prevention education.

"Access to medical services, health education, and fitness equipment is critical to the well being of students," said Davis. "Rural Development is pleased to help Marlboro College meet that need."

Each year, during the summer months, all furnishings and contents of the health center have to be dismantled and put in storage to accommodate the terms of a lease with the Marlboro Music Festival. "We have worked a long time to get a permanent site for our health center," said Nancy Pike, Dean of Student. "We are very grateful and excited about the new facility."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life in Rural America. This is done by providing financial and technical assistance to foster growth and new opportunities for business development, home ownership, and critical community and technology infrastructure. To learn more about USDA Rural Development programs visit the web site at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/vt>.